

JULY 1934  
RECKLESS RALPH'S 31

# DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

Official Organ Happy Hours Brotherhood

A MONUMENT FOR

## DEADWOOD DICK OF DIME NOVEL FAME!

Visitors in the community of Deadwood, South Dakota, in the Black Hills where Dick used to roam, have been making pilgrimages to an un-impressive mound of earth in the town's cemetery and wondering why that heap of earth wasn't befittingly marked.

Over four years have passed, and the authorities of Deadwood have, at the last moment, decided to erect a monument over the earthly remains of Deadwood Dick, and scout of the far west. It's not to be much of a monument—a small rough stone with a bronze plate on it—but that doesn't matter because Deadwood Dick otherwise, Richard W. Clarke, wrote his own eulogy, and in a way, erected his own memorial, in the middle of the 1870's and for a good many years after that.

Dick was Deadwood's first citizen by those dangerous and audacious exploits that were related in dime and nickel novels that the American boys read by the million. The writer of these old timers may have taken some liberties with the facts, but he would have found it very hard to create a hero of fiction who's life was filled with more action and color than was the lot of Deadwood Dick in real life. Richard Clarke was born in old England, in the year of 1845, and came to this country when he was a lad of 16. He came to the Black Hills with a crew of hardbitten pioneers and adventurers, lured westward by gold, in an ox-team when he was still a



young man.

Already known in the Black Hills, Clarke, in 1874, was scout in the Indian fighting forces of the ill-fated General Custer, of which he himself escaped death at the massacre of the Little Big Horn, as he had been sent away on another mission with a small company of soldiers. He made more trips as a Pony Express rider, than he could remember, also, as a guard on stagecoaches carrying gold bullion away from the Black Hills, where both outlaws and redmen roamed.

In 1927, when the late President Coolidge visited the Black Hills, and was made a full-fledged member of the great Oglala Indian tribe, Deadwood Dick, then a white-haired old man of 77, mounted a spirited horse and rode at the head of the Presidential procession. Coolidge took a very great liking to this contemporary of Buffalo Bill, Wild Bill Hickock, Calamity Jane, Diamond Dick, and the James Boys of old Missouri, of which he, President Coolidge invited Deadwood Dick to come and see him at the White House. The next year to come, the old Indian fighter boarded a plane and flew to Washington for a little get-together with the country's 30th President. It's not known why something wasn't done about marking this famous scout's grave, before now and is something of a mystery, but the Deadwood Chamber of Commerce has at last stirred and appointed a committee to erect a modest memorial over the last resting place of one of the most glamorous figures in America's history.

Deadwood Dick first appeared in 1877 in Beadles Half Dime Library, No. 1, Deadwood Dick, the Prince of the Road, or the Black Rider of the Black Hills. Many a dime and nickel novel has been written of Deadwood Dick's adventures in the Black Hills of South Dakota.



Edward L. Wheeler was the celebrated author of this wonderful series of our own America's Robin Hood.

Then Dick appeared in numerous other novels, such as; Beadles Boys Library, Beadles Pocket Library, Deadwood Dick Library, besides many that were published in different libraries across the water in England, such as; Deadwood Dick Library, Boys First Rate Library and others.

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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS  
Washington

Apr. 24, 1934.

Dear Mr. Cummings:-

Your appreciated letter arrived safely and I want to assure you of the very great pleasure you have given us by your generous gift of a complete set of THE NOVEL WORLD, THE NOVEL HUNTER'S YEAR BOOK and the file of the DIME NOVEL ROUND UP. The three photographs are unusually fine pieces of work and will be of service when reproductions are needed.

I have spent practically the entire day going through all the material you sent and find invaluable information in every piece. Later on I will read them all carefully and make notes regarding some specially interesting points concerning which we need information and in some instances may be able to give it.

The principal point I want to emphasize is that the Dime Novel Collection in the Rare Book Room of the Library of Congress should be considered as the official collection of "The Happy Hours Brotherhood" and of all other American citizens, and I hope it can be built up to be a credit to the Nation and especially to the work of the little group of enthusiasts whom you have gathered about yourself.

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP



Slowly, I am checking our material so as to find what is complete and what is missing. It looks as if the file known as Beadles Boys Library, Large Series, is complete with the exceptions of numbers 53 and 54. These numbers therefore represent our needs for that series.

I am also anxious to find a copy of the Waverly Library No. 118, Volume V. This is a reprint of the Vicar of Wakefield. If you can get track of a copy, be sure and let me know and advise me of the price at which it can be obtained.

I am sure that the collection here will develop subjects that will interest you and your associates, and you may be sure that I will send you notices whenever possible.

Thanking you again for your splendid gift to the bibliographical material of our collection, I am,

Sincerely, V. VALTA PARMA.  
Curator-Rare Book Collection.

NOTE: This is a reprint of the original issue which also contained a poem entitled: THE BUFFALO BILL STORIES-Written especially for My Pard "Reckless Ralph" by "Buckskin Bill"....Also a full page of Ads and the following news item:

John T. McIntyre of Philadelphia sold the complete set of Beadles Dime Library-985 copies to Prof. Albert Johannsen of the University of Chicago.

Sorry that space will not permit the reprint of the poem mentioned above, which would require at least one half page of this reprint.